

of his outstanding work, Jose was awarded the Commissioner's Citation in 1980, 1991, and 1992, and the Commissioner's Team Award in 1997.

In 1990, Mr. Lastra was appointed Area Director of South Florida. In this capacity, he oversees thirty-three Social Security field offices with a total staff of 978 employees. The South Florida Area includes more than 2 million Social Security beneficiaries, many of whom reside in my district. As Chairman of the House Social Security Subcommittee, I am especially grateful for all of Mr. Lastra's hard work on behalf of my senior constituents.

Today, I am pleased to recognize a man who has taken full advantage of what America offers. Coming to this country as a young immigrant from Cuba, he studied hard, worked tirelessly and rose from an entry level position to one of leadership in the Social Security Administration. A true sign of his character, Jose is held in the highest regard by those who work with him and for him. Jose L. Lastra's life and achievements represent the dream of opportunity that America so proudly boasts.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN
DURANT OF CUSTOMS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to acknowledge the retirement of John Durant, Director of Commercial Rulings for the U.S. Customs Service. Mr. Durant retires after 33 years of federal service, with almost 31 years of that time with Customs. John Durant served in Customs field offices in Boston and Houston, before coming to Headquarters office in Washington DC. John is well known to all members of the international trade community and the trade bar as a preeminent expert on Customs matters and has been instrumental in the effort to modernize Customs' procedures for the benefit of trade and our economy.

Thirty years has seen remarkable changes in how trade has taken on an ever more important role in our country's economic success. Just in the last decade, trade has grown 132 percent, and by 2004, Customs will be processing more than 30 million commercial entries a year. This is up from 12.3 million in 1994 more than double the level of 10 years earlier. John has had the unenviable but critical role in overseeing more than 12,000 commercial rulings that Customs issues each year on such arcane topics as tariff classification, country of origin and marking. He was also the liaison with the trade community for Customs during discussions leading up to the passage and implementation of the Customs Modernization Act of 1993.

For the Congress, however, Mr. Durant will always be known as Customs point man, and sometimes lightning rod, on trade legislation. For the past 14 years, Mr. Durant has been invaluable to the Congress in providing timely and useful technical comments on draft legislation. Much of trade legislation is not exciting or entertaining. It requires people who are professional, dedicated, and very attentive to detail. Mr. Durant is the leader of such men and women at Customs and he does so with a sense of humor. He has been the "man to

see" at Customs for answers on trade matters. His retirement will be sorely felt by Customs, Congress, and the trade community.

I am very grateful for all of his help throughout the years. John is a delightful man to work with. We wish him the best in his retirement and his future endeavors. We hope Mr. Durant will return to the nation's Capital and lend his considerable talents to the private sector.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN WALLACH

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I join the chorus of voices around the world to express my admiration and respect for Mr. John Wallach. On July 10, 2002, John Wallach passed away after a life of passion, hope, and heart. I offer my condolences to the family and friends of this truly great man.

Throughout his life, John Wallach approached all things with heartfelt passion. As an award-winning journalist, peace activist, and friend to so many individuals throughout the world, Mr. Wallach inspired those around him to believe in themselves and achieve their dreams.

I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Wallach through his work as founder of, and force behind, the organization Seeds of Peace. Seeds of Peace promotes understanding and long-term stability by uniting teenagers from areas of regional conflict for a unique mediating program at its neutral site in Otisfield, Maine. It was John Wallach's confidence that hope and progress can succeed that enabled Seeds of Peace to grow from simply an idea into the world leader in conflict resolution for youth. I have personally visited this camp in Maine, and seen first-hand the positive effect it has on the participants. Seeds of Peace has established a network of peace builders, who now serve as an inspirational part of John Wallach's legacy.

Before embarking on a second career as an ambassador of peace and mutual understanding, Mr. Wallach had a distinguished career in journalism and as an author. From 1968 to 1994, he served as diplomatic correspondent, White House correspondent, and foreign editor for the Hearst Newspapers. His articles earned many prizes, including two Overseas Press Club awards, the Edward Weintal Prize and the Edwin Hood Award, the highest honor presented by the National Press Club. In 1979, President Carter presented Mr. Wallach with the Congressional Committee of Correspondents Award for his coverage of the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David summit. As an author, he co-authored with his wife Janet Wallach, three books, *Arafat: In The Eyes of the Beholder*, *Still Small Voices*, and *The New Palestinians*. Mr. Wallach has also written *The Enemy has a Face*.

John Wallach was a man with an enormous heart. Throughout his life he took chances to make progress, and motivated others to follow their hearts. The world is a better place because of John Wallach, and I join many people around the world to commend him and thank him for what he has done.

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
AIDS CONFERENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last week in Barcelona, Spain, 15,000 people came together for the 14th International AIDS Conference for "Knowledge and Commitment for Action."

We know that in 2001, there were 5 million new AIDS infections across the globe. Today there are 40 million people living with AIDS worldwide, and there are 14 million AIDS orphans. Currently, in Africa more than 28 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, however, only 30,000 are in treatment.

In comparison, in the United States, nearly 100 percent of the people who need treatment receive it. 99 percent of the African people living with AIDS do not have access to Antiretroviral drugs because they are simply too poor to purchase them.

In Barcelona, thousands came together to call for treatment now, and presented the "Barcelona Declaration," which was also read during the opening session of the Conference. Nelson Mandela and former President Clinton have pledged their assistance to help raise awareness and funding for the UN Global AIDS Trust Fund.

This declaration called for securing donations of \$10 billion dollars per year for global AIDS; Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for at least two million people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world by 2004; lower, affordable ARV drug prices and universal access to generics in the developing world; and a new global partnership between government and NGOs.

I am urging that Congress and the President in a bi-partisan spirit, bolster UN efforts to combat the AIDS pandemic, provide 2 billion dollars to the United Nations Global Aids Fund, to help pay for the costs of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. This Administration has allocated \$200 million dollars to fight global AIDS. I wholeheartedly agree with the activists in Barcelona that \$200 million is not enough to combat "the Plague" of the 21st century.

The United States must put at least \$2 billion into the Global Trust Fund. Dr. Peter Piot, the Director of UNAIDS said that a \$ 10 billion effort will only begin to make a dent in the crisis. It is a falsehood to say that spending money on AIDS in Africa would simply be a waste of money. Critics of the fund incorrectly say that corrupt dictators will take the money and use it to enrich themselves. In Uganda, Thailand and Senegal, for example, strong national leadership partnered with a community-wide response are reducing new HIV infections and AIDS diagnoses and focusing on treatment measures for their people. There are hundreds of AIDS organizations and government officials around the world that are monitoring the progress of the Fund. Please . . . let's give it a chance to work.

I am urging today that my colleagues in Congress, the Bush Administration, the private sector, and the celebrity community begin lobbying the more affluent nations of the European Community and Asia to provide the remaining 8 billion necessary to combat the

AIDS pandemic. France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and the oil rich Countries of the Middle East are not providing enough funding to the UN Global AIDS Trust.

I have often heard the argument that we can not afford to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS patients around the world who have AIDS, or will contract it in the future. Nobody on the planet can persuade me that America, and the industrialized countries of the East and West, nations with trillion dollar economies, do not have the resources to combat the AIDS pandemic. But the truth of the matter, and I have seen this for decades, is that the international community will follow our lead if we provide the moral and financial leadership on HIV/AIDS. Again, this has not been the case.

I am also urging my colleagues to call a meeting with the pharmaceutical companies, and begin the much needed discussion on how to bring the price of HIV/AIDS prescription drugs down so that the poorer nations, in particularly those in Africa, can afford to buy their or generic drugs. In times of international health disasters, we must put the lives of people first; and profits second. Sadly, this has not been the case.

In the United States, 950,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the total U.S. population but 54 percent of new infections. 82 percent of women who are newly infected with HIV are African-American and Latino.

In Michigan, AIDS patients who are dependent on federal programs to help cover the costs of HIV/AIDS drugs are now saying that due to budget cuts, they are having difficulty affording HIV/AIDS drugs. We can not allow this to happen.

It is imperative that we as a nation provide the requisite funds necessary to provide adequate treatment and prevention for HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOE AND BARBARA SALTZMAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe and Barbara Saltzman who were married on July 1, 1962, and are now celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. They are the children of Ruth and Murray Saltzman and Sid and Lillian Epstein, the parents of David and Michael Saltzman, the parents-in-law of Jennifer Saltzman, and the grandparents of Samantha and Sarah Saltzman.

Joe and Barbara Saltzman have been active as professional journalists in the community for four decades, with Joe Saltzman having won more than 50 awards as a broadcast journalist including the Columbia University-Pontiac broadcast journalism award, four Emmys, four Golden Mike's, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, a Silver Gavel, and one of the first NAACP Image Awards, and Barbara Saltzman having been a member of the Los Angeles Times staff for 22 years and editor of the daily Calendar section.

When their son David, a Chadwick School graduate, tragically died of Hodgkin's disease

after graduating from Yale, Joe and Barbara could have turned their backs on the world. Instead, they mortgaged their house to keep a promise they had made to David. They promised that if he finished his children's book, *The Jester Has Lost His Jingle*, they would make sure it would be published in the way he envisioned it and would donate it to children who were suffering from illnesses.

Joe and Barbara made that promise a reality producing more than 40,000 Jester books and 35,000 Jester & Pharley Dolls that have been donated to ill and special-needs children. The book has also become a national best-seller and there are more than 300,000 copies in circulation. To further their efforts, Joe and Barbara Saltzman have created The Jester & Pharley Phund, a non-profit charity so that they can continue the mission of giving every child a sense of hope, a feeling of empowerment, a love of learning, the joy of laughter, and the desire to live up to The Jester & Pharley's motto: "It's up to us to make a difference, it's up to us to care. . . ."

Barbara has become "The Jester's Mom" bringing the Jester & Pharley's message of hope and laughter to thousands of children in hospitals and schools throughout the country. Joe has served the community as a professor of journalism at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication for more than 35 years and continues to serve as an educator, academic, journalist and administrator.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and Barbara Saltzman have dedicated their lives to helping children who need to hear the Jester's message and have made a significant difference in the lives of so many people who need to find hope and laughter. I commend their commitment in bringing a little more happiness to all our lives.

TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL WILFRID NAPIER, OFM, OF DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Archdiocese of Detroit, which has joined with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services to stand in solidarity with Africa through the Africa Rising: Hope and Healing Campaign. Encouraging members of the Metro Detroit Catholic community to engage in advocacy, dialogue, and prayer, they have joined this campaign to truly put their faith to work. On Sunday, June 30, 2002, the Archdiocese of Detroit had the distinguished honor of hosting Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, OFM, of Durban, South Africa, as part of their Africa Rising: Hope and Healing Campaign.

Born in Matatiele, South Africa, in 1941, Cardinal Napier studied in Ireland and France and completed a Masters Degree in Philosophy and Theology. Ordained a priest in 1970 and then appointed Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Kokstad and made Bishop of Kokstad in 1981, Cardinal Napier's vibrance and leadership was apparent from the start. Serving two terms as President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference from

1987-1994, Cardinal Napier went on to be appointed Archbishop of Durban in 1992. In 1998 Pope John Paul II appointed him as Consulor to the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples, and in February of 2001, he was named Cardinal. An outspoken advocate for HIV-AIDS treatment, poverty eradication, debt relief, and development, Cardinal Napier's outstanding work to create innovative new programs and initiatives for these social justice issues is truly unparalleled. He has taken up the challenge to fight for the people of sub-Saharan Africa and continues to work hard for the advancement of his region and beyond.

I applaud Cardinal Napier for the work he has accomplished and continues to do, and I welcome him to the United States and to Detroit, Michigan. I also applaud the Archdiocese of Detroit for its leadership, commitment, and service, and for encouraging our community to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Cardinal Napier, and pay tribute to him as he embarks on this historic visit.

THE FREE HOUSING MARKET ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Housing Market Enhancement Act. This legislation restores a free market in housing by repealing special privileges for the housing-related government sponsored enterprises (GSE). These entities are the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and the National Home Loan Bank Board. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the housing-related GSEs received 13.6 billion worth of indirect federal subsidies in Fiscal Year 2000 alone.

One of the major government privileges granted the GSEs is a line of credit to the United States Treasury. According to some estimates, the line of credit may be worth over \$2 billion dollars. This explicit promise by the Treasury to bail out the GSEs in times of economic difficulty helps the GSEs attract investors who are willing to settle for lower yields than they would demand in the absence of the subsidy. Thus, the line of credit distorts the allocation of capital. More importantly, the line of credit is a promise on behalf of the government to engage in a massive unconstitutional and immoral income transfer from working Americans to holders of GSE debt.

The Free Housing Market Enhancement Act also repeals the explicit grant of legal authority given to the Federal Reserve to purchase the debt of the GSE. GSEs are the only institutions besides the United States Treasury granted explicit statutory authority to monetize their debt through the Federal Reserve. This provision gives the GSEs a source of liquidity unavailable to their competitors.

Ironically, by transferring the risk of a widespread mortgage default, the government increases the likelihood of a painful crash in the housing market. This is because the special privileges of Fannie and Freddie have distorted the housing market by allowing Fannie,